

S/N 10/032,700
Ref. No.: 659-911
Client Ref. No.: K-C 17154

REMARKS:

Applicants have amended claims 2-15, 17-20, 21-28 and 30-37 to clarify the language of the preamble. Claim 23 also has been amended to depend from claim 22 so as to provide proper antecedent basis for “said fixedly securing said garment side of said first portion of said fastener member.” These amendments have not narrowed the scope of the claimed invention in any way.

As set forth in MPEP 806.05(i), and as stated by the Examiner, the product claims (Group I claims 1-20) “will be examined along with the elected invention,” or the process of making the product (Office Action at 2). Accordingly, Applicants have elected the Group I claims, along with the Group II method claims (21-37). In addition, it is Applicants’ understanding that the method of using claims (Group II Claims 38-40) must also be joined if the product claims are allowed (MPEP 806.05(i)). Accordingly, Applicants have only withdrawn claims 38-40, rather than canceling them. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney if Applicants have misunderstood the outstanding restriction requirement.

In addition to electing the Group I/II claims, Applicants further elect the species of Figures 2/7, and the subspecies of the fastener member being fixedly attached to the body side of the first body panel. Applicants appreciate the Examiner’s statement that claim 1 is generic. Applicants submit that claims 6, 7, 10-

S/N 10/032,700
Ref. No.: 659-911
Client Ref. No.: K-C 17154

14, 16, 21, 25, 29, 34, 35 and 36 are also generic, and that claims 2-4, 8, 17, 18, 22, 23, 26 and 32 are further readable on the elected species and subspecies.

Any questions concerning this election or amendment should be directed to the undersigned attorney at (312) 321-4713.

Respectfully submitted,



Andrew D. Stover
Registration No. 38,629
Attorney for Applicant

Date: May 4, 2004

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. BOX 10395
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610
(312) 321-4200